Safety of tourists

†1005. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to save domestic and foreign tourists from touts;

(b) whether Government also review the measures taken in this regard, and

(c) if so, at what interval?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) A number of State Governments have on the advice of Government of India set up Tourist Police to deal with unscrupulous elements like touts, etc. and to ensure safety of foreign and domestic tourists.

The Department of Tourism has also set up a 'Tourist Complaint Cell' to redress the complaints received from tourists Progress in this regard is monitored on a regular basis.

Tourists from Gulf and West Asia region

1006. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of tourists since 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government propose to attract more tourists from Gulf and West Asia regions, and

(c) if so, Government's strategy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The promotion of tourism products to attract more foreign tourists in India from all the regions including Gulf and West Asia Region is an ongoing process. Besides advertising in print and electronic media, participation in fairs and exhibitions, dissemination of information through

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.